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January 21, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Wednesday, January 19, 2005, undersigned counsel, on behalf of Rural Cellular Corporation ("RCC") and the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers, met with Jessica Rosenworcel, legal advisor to Commissioner Copps, to discuss the Commission's upcoming action in the above-referenced docket and to discuss petitions for service area redefinition that have been pending before the agency for as long as two years.

The need to implement competitively neutral rules and the need for the Commission to disaggregate high-cost support to prevent uneconomic support levels from being distributed were discussed, as well as the need for prompt action on service area redefinition petitions. Counsel urged the FCC to dispose of a number of service area redefinition cases under the rules in effect at the time the petitions were filed with the agency. Counsel also pointed to the comments filed by public utility commissions of Maine, Colorado, and Minnesota in support of pending petitions.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel, Esq.